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561 seized in protest at CIA headquarters

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More than 500 demonstrators were arrested yesterday morning after attempting to block employees reporting to work at CIA headquarters in McLean.

The demonstrators sat in front of the north and south gates at CIA headquarters, chanting slogans such as "Si, si, Sandinista; no, no, CIA," until they were escorted away or carried off by police in riot gear.

It was believed to be the first time demonstrators had targeted the agency for civil disobedience.

Police said no violence or major disturbance occurred at either gate, although eight protesters "moon"ed the crowd, dropping their trousers and underpants to expose the message "NO REAGAN" spelled out on their buttocks.

Although they had been widely expected to appear, former presidential daughter Amy Carter, a sophomore at Brown University, and Abbie Hoffman, 50, a veteran of Vietnam War-era protests, were not among the 1,000 participants in yesterday's protest.

Some CIA employees abandoned their cars and walked the final thousand feet to work, past demonstrators who urged them to quit or join them, according to police and a CIA spokeswoman.

None did, although some poked light-hearted fun at the protest. One employee smiled and waved a peace sign at the crowd, while two others wore glasses with false noses and moustaches.

The protest ended the three-day "Mobilization for Peace and Justice in Central America and Southern Africa," which drew students, union members and religious leaders to the Capitol on Saturday to protest President Reagan's foreign policies. Official estimates of the Saturday crowd ranged from 22,000 to 75,000.

"What we were attempting to do [at the CIA] was make a strong enough presence there to make sure that the normal flow of business was

impeded, and in so doing, make a very public statement," said Leslie Cagan, national coordinator of the April Coalition that organized the weekend of protests.

"And in that, I think we were very successful," she said.

However, most CIA employees eventually made it to work, CIA spokesmen said.

"If people came in early, that was their choice," said CIA spokeswoman Sharon Foster. "But as far as I can tell, we have a nearly full complement today. The cafeteria was certainly pretty full at lunch."

Several once-prominent protesters were arrested, including Philip Berrigan, a former Catholic priest who was imprisoned for anti-Vietnam War protests, and Dave Dellinger, one of the original Chicago 7. John Stockwell, a former CIA official who has turned against the agency, spoke to the demonstrators but was not arrested.

A small group of counterdemonstrators, who briefly lined the road opposite the main protest, chanted "America needs the CIA. Keep America free."

George Hanks, 66, a retired mechanical engineer, held a solitary counterprotest, carrying a sign that read: "Go home Amy; you too Abbie." Mr. Hanks argued with Bruce Gagnon, a 34-year-old former Air Force officer who joined yesterday's protest.

"... Do do you think we should exist as a country without an intelligence service?" Mr. Hanks said.

Mr. Gagnon replied that the CIA

was "not an intelligence service ... it's a secret police."

Fairfax County Police reported arresting 355 protesters at the south gate off Route 123 where hundreds of CIA employees were backed up on roads for hours, tying up morning rush-hour traffic for several miles.

Police released 93 of those protesters after citing them for "obstructing the free passage of others." The rest were taken by police van to the McLean district station and charged with the same misdemeanor.

Most posted bail on the spot, although 92 others insisted on being jailed.

U.S. Park Police and other federal officers arrested 206 demonstrators at the north gate off George Washington Memorial Parkway where ac-

tivists failed to block the entrance to the complex. Those protesters were charged with demonstrating without a permit and taken to the Park Police station in Anacostia Park for processing.

The first arrests of the 5½-hour confrontation came about 6:30 a.m. as a group of seven protesters sat in the road from Route 123 to the south gate of the complex. Other demonstrators shouted at the blocked cars carrying CIA employees.

"Please go home," one protester said to stonefaced workers. "Recognize what you're doing."

"I'm just trying to get to work like everybody else," said one man. "They have a right to demonstrate, but not to block people from getting to work."